



MAPBD WATCHDOG

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION FOR PURE BRED DOGS

Founded 1964

"Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership"



mapbd.org

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HB 4353 of 2015 HB 4355 of 2015

HB 4353 and HB 4355 require registered animal control shelters and registered animal protection shelters to conduct criminal background checks on anyone wishing to adopt a pet. These checks would utilize ICHAT (Internet Criminal History Access Tool), which is maintained by the State Police.

MAPBD POSITION: No civilized person advocates animal abuse. However, there are still problematic issues in the language of these bills, some of which would result in unintended consequences.

MAPBD approves of these bills, with amendments, having problematic language clarified.

- By definition, Sec. 6 of 1969 PA 287, MCL 287.336 (see below), to use ICHAT for free requires that the animal control shelter or animal protection shelter **be registered** with MDARD. Being a registered shelter contributes to the welfare of the animals in those shelters. MDARD has oversight of those registered animal welfare societies and the animals under their care through an initial inspection process required for registration, with the ability for MDARD to conduct ongoing annual inspections. If "shelters" are not registered with MDARD they should not be able to use ICHAT for free. If the State Police were to provide ICHAT for free to anyone calling themselves a shelter (i.e. rescues, fosters, etc.) then the state would be providing a free service to an entity that is not in compliance with current law.

PET SHOPS, DOG POUNDS, AND ANIMAL SHELTERS (EXCERPT) Act 287 of 1969

287.336 Animal control shelter; registration.

Sec. 6.

A municipality shall not operate an animal control shelter unless the animal control shelter is registered with the department. A society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, or any other person, shall not operate an animal protection shelter unless the shelter is registered with the department.

- **There are no provisions in these bills addressing shelter compliance or oversight of ICHAT users.** At present there are approximately 195 shelters registered with MDARD. However research by MAPBD found that at least 125 animal shelters are not listed with MDARD. That is, only 60% of entities that call themselves a shelter are registered with MDARD. Additionally, in the latest MDARD Shelter Report (2013) 164 MDARD registered shelters (only 83% compliance) reported their placement of dogs and cats in Michigan.

MAPBD is a Michigan non-profit organization founded in 1964. Its members and member clubs advocate for responsible dog ownership and work to protect the rights of Michigan citizens to own, breed, and enjoy their dogs.

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